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Agriculture

(Continued from Sixth Page)

only the poor farmer who suffers, and who cares for him, save for a short time previous to the general election? To pass a law requiring certain expenses to be incurred and then failing to provide funds for them, shows little wisdom on the part of our legislators, while to apply the funds belonging to certain work to supply the deficiency is an act of injustice to those concerned.

The inventor is having his innings in these days, especially in the line of labor-saving machines. A pie-making machine that can turn out four hundred pies an hour, untouched by the hand of the housewife, until it is turned out of the oven, was recently described in the Scientific American. This will interest all housekeepers. And now comes a machine for milking cows which copies as nearly as possible the action of the hand when milking. A brace of four squeezers is provided, each resting in a box, all being secured on a common frame in such a way that the receiving boxes can be adjusted to any cow. Great is the American inventor.

JOHNSON GRASS.

Johnson grass, says Mr. J. W. Stillman, agrostologist of the office of grass and forage plant investigations, "is probably the most troublesome weed in the Southern States," and recently the Bureau of Plant Industry has issued a preliminary bulletin on the subject of its extermination, giving the result of experiments made on a farm in Texas, accompanied by three plates and four text figures. Mr. Stillman thinks—as no doubt do many others—"it is very unfortunate that a grass which will produce three good crops of hay in an ordinary season should be so hard to control as to render it a very serious pest."

LOWER PRICES PREDICTED.

The distinguished gentleman who presides over the United States Department of Agriculture has made a prediction that lower retail prices will prevail during the coming season for meat, dairy products, poultry and other necessities of life. It may be, but the country merchant says that canned milk and cream is going up in the wholesale market, and once in awhile he adds a cent to the tinned meats. Which does not go to bear out Secretary Wilson's optimistic predictions, based on "the enormous yields of small grain and corn in the great grain territory of Illinois, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas." He also made the startling discovery that meat producers have been losing money for the last few years, but that the heavy grass crop of this season, in addition to the great oat and corn yield, will bring about normal feeding conditions. But will the beef trust people find this out, and the wholesale dealer and the retail merchant in a way that will cut off the extra pennies on the enormous amount of canned goods used, say, in our own State, not to mention the rest of the Union? We doubt it. Cheap food products are of the past. The growth of population, both home-raised and imported, is in increasing ratio and above that of the producing class. The cities and towns are becoming beehives of humanity consumers but not producers. We are inclined to think that the farmers and fruit growers of Florida are better off than they are in many of the other States in the Union; but, if they get more, they pay more, and wherein lies the benefit?

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Can a radish be changed and become a potato? Some experiments along this line seem to prove it. A Frenchman has invented the process by which he takes a young radish and cultivates it in a glass retort with a concentrated solution of glucose, by which starch develops in its cells, and, losing its peppery flavor, acquires the consistency, flavor and nutritive qualities of the potato. The discovery is regarded in France as one which may have far-reaching consequences, but just how, we fail to perceive. Our farmers will continue to raise "taters" in the old-fashioned way in spite of M. Molliard's invention, and the radish will remain as such—as long as the moon endureth.

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